



Summary of February 16, 2006 EMAT & February 27, 2006 CNC Community Meetings

The City of San Diego presented the final plans for the Chollas Creek Restoration Project at the February 16, 2006 meeting of the Jacobs Foundation's Euclid-Market Action Team (EMAT) and the February 27, 2006 Coalition of Neighborhood Councils (CNC) meeting. Drew Kleis, Project Manager in the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Division, presented the final plans, while Javier Guerrero presented the draft artwork and signage.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

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Drew also summarized the comments received from the community during previous public meetings regarding the project's design. The community's primary comments were:

- *Create a linear park connected to the community*
- *Create a sense of place (natural, park-like)*
- *Plant large trees for aesthetics and shade*
- *Install artwork/signage that recognizes important community members, recognizes Native American cultures, includes environmental education, is weather & vandalism resistant*
- *Design "soft" trails with a nature walk theme*
- *Avoid unsightly fences; wood or natural looking fences acceptable*

Drew and the project team then summarized how the final plans have addressed these design comments. Drew pointed out how the final draft plans include a decomposed granite (sand) trail connecting the proposed creek restoration area to Euclid Avenue and park benches shaded by large native trees along the trail. To enable the project to connect the public trail to Euclid Avenue— an essential feature of the project— Drew discussed how the project would require the removal of six parking spaces from the Tubman-Chavez Center parking lot. Drew also discussed how a low, natural-looking fence has been included on the edge of the trail to reduce potential for members of the public to injure themselves on the

creek slope, and to keep pedestrian traffic from trampling the native landscaping. Javier Guerrero, as the interpretive signage designer for the project, presented the initial draft creek signage design, which will include educational information on how the creek functions in protecting and improving water quality, and on local Native American culture. Information will be presented in both Spanish and English. A summary of the input received from the community regarding the signage is provided below.

Community's Signage Comments:

- *Signage should discuss the potential for flooding*
- *Signage should convey information visually*
- *Signage should include African-American culture*
- *Signage should include some plant names in Kumeyaay language*
- *Signage should include Braille translation*

The City will consider these comments during the remaining stages of the signage design.

Finally, after some discussion at both meetings, both the EMAT and CNC community groups supported the final project design.

Next Steps

The City is scheduled to begin construction in late June 2006 and will notify the community prior to initiating construction. In the meantime, community members are encouraged to contact Drew with any questions and stay up to date on the project by visiting the Think Blue website (<http://www.thinkbluesd.org/Chollas/>).